

### **Karen White, CDC Senior Management Official**

After a brief tenure at the Department of Justice, Ms. White joined the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention as a Public Health Advisor. For the first 10 ten years of her career with CDC, Karen worked in State and local health departments. These assignments were in the National Center for HIV, STD and TB Prevention, and the National Immunization and took her to clinics and programs in Brooklyn, New York; Miami-Dade County, Florida; the State of Virginia; and New York City.

Karen had the opportunity to study for her Masters in Public Administration at the John F. Kennedy School at Harvard University and while there focused on strategy and planning in public systems.

When she left the Kennedy School, Karen was asked to join the National Immunization Program's Infant Immunization Initiative at CDC in Atlanta. The "I-3" as it became known served as the basis for the Vaccine for Children Program. For the next 12 years, Karen worked on many of the new Programs that were developed within CDC to respond to the changing world of public health. Among her work are the Managed Care Office which was developed to address the burgeoning effects and impacts of managed care and HMOs not only on public health but also on the *public's health*; the Graduate Certificate Program which focused on the development needs of the public health workforce at CDC and in the States; the Bioterrorism Preparedness and Response Program and the National Center for Public Health Informatics which were established to address fundamental changes in the landscape of public health as well as the Prevention Support Office which was a forerunner to her current assignment as a Senior Management Official in the State of Washington.

As the Senior Management Official for the state of Washington, Karen has the responsibility for managing the full investment of resources that CDC has made to Washington. This investment includes not only the state Health Department but also the University of Washington, and a number of smaller agencies and organizations. The primary purposes of this position are to: (1) increase and improve communication between CDC and the leadership of the different programs that it supports and partners with in public health endeavors in Washington, (2) ensure that the public health work being done in Washington is in alignment with CDC's "Strategic Imperatives" and "Health Protection Goals" and that these Imperatives and Goals reflect the needs and priorities of Washington State, (3) improve the coordination and implementation of CDC business and performance management systems to better serve its partners in the state, and (4) provide strategic direction and oversight of the CDC staff resources within the state.

With this assignment, Karen's public health career has come full circle. Working with the health professionals across Washington State, she has the opportunity to use her varied experience and knowledge to participate in defining the next chapter of public health at a local, state, and national level.